

MECIDEA MINOR, A NEW SPECIES OF PENTATOMID FROM NEW MEXICO.

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Up to the present writing, hemipterologists have recognized only one North American species belonging to the pentatomid tribe Mecidiini. That species is *Mecidea longula* Stål, described in 1854. Recently, while sorting pentatomids, collected during various trips to the Rocky Mountain states since 1932, a number of specimens of the genus *Mecidea* were found which differ from the accepted description of *M. longula* in so many respects that there can be no doubt that they represent a new and an additional species of the genus. Due to their smaller size and paler color, when compared with *M. longula*, the specific name **minor** has been given them. In some respects the specimens show relationship to the African species *M. pallida* Stål, but again differ in their smaller size.

For sake of comparison both *M. longula* and *M. minor* are here-with described.

Mecidea longula Stål

Form narrowly elliptical, color testaceous to gray yellow with fuscous lineations usually forming four longitudinal bands through the thorax, the two middle ones continuous onto the scutellum; fuscous markings, when present on venter, in form of bands near lateral margins of thorax and abdomen; head about one-third longer than wide through eyes; juga longer than tylus, usually divergent at apex so that the tip of the head is narrowly truncate; a preapical sinus is usually present and its lateral margins are not parallel (Fig. A); pronotum more than half again as wide as long through median line, sometimes almost twice as wide; its surface coarsely punctate, somewhat transversely rugose; a median impunctate carina obsolescent or wanting; canal of the metasternal orifice attenuated into a tapering, slightly arcuate ridge, extending three-quarters or more across the metasternal plate; the black spot diagonally behind each spiracle prominent, as big as or bigger than the spiracle, an impressed transverse bar in front of each spot granulated and prominent; the abdominal striae coarse and easily recognizable; lower lip of male genital cup somewhat up-turned, its edge forming a shallow U-shaped border, sometimes with a pair of opposing blunt denticles at the base of the U (Fig. B); the upturned portion of the cup shallowly impressed

transversely; posterior angles of the cup bluntly rounded; not elongated, terminal segment in female usually more than twice as wide as long (Fig. C).

Although Stål, in his original description, gives the dimensions of *M. longula* as 9 mm. long and $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. wide, all specimens the present writer has ever seen are always considerably larger. In general the specimens that have been examined average 12 mm. long by $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. wide, more nearly the size of *M. pallida* Stål (13 mm. \times 4 mm.).

Mecidea minor, n. sp.

Form narrowly elongate, slender, pale straw yellow with fuscous lineations faint, obsolescent or wanting; head one-half again as long as wide through the eyes; juga longer than tylus, converging to an acute apex; a preapical sinus usually wanting, but if present, narrow, and its lateral margins parallel (Fig. D); antennal segment two more strongly triquetral than in *longula*, especially near base; pronotum about half again as wide across humeri as long through median line, its surface finely punctate and not evidently rugose and with a median pale, impunctate line forming a weak carina continuous through the scutellum; canal of metasternal orifice somewhat elongated but not attenuated into a long tapering tip and not reaching more than two-thirds the distance across the metasternal plate; the black spot diagonally behind each spiracle minute (usually smaller than the spiracle) or wanting, the impressed transverse bar in front of it inconspicuous or obsolescent; the abdominal striae very delicate and barely visible; lower lip of the male genital cup hardly upturned, its edge forming a prominent V-shaped border about the basal angle of which are two or three blunt denticles; the posterior angles of the cup elongate, narrowly rounded (Fig. E); terminal segment of female not more than twice as wide as long, usually less (Fig. F).

Described from fifteen specimens.

Type: Male—Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., New Mexico, August 28, 1937. Length 9 mm.; width across humeri 2.33 mm.

Allotype: Female—Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., New Mexico, August 28, 1937. Length 10 mm.; width across humeri 2.75 mm.

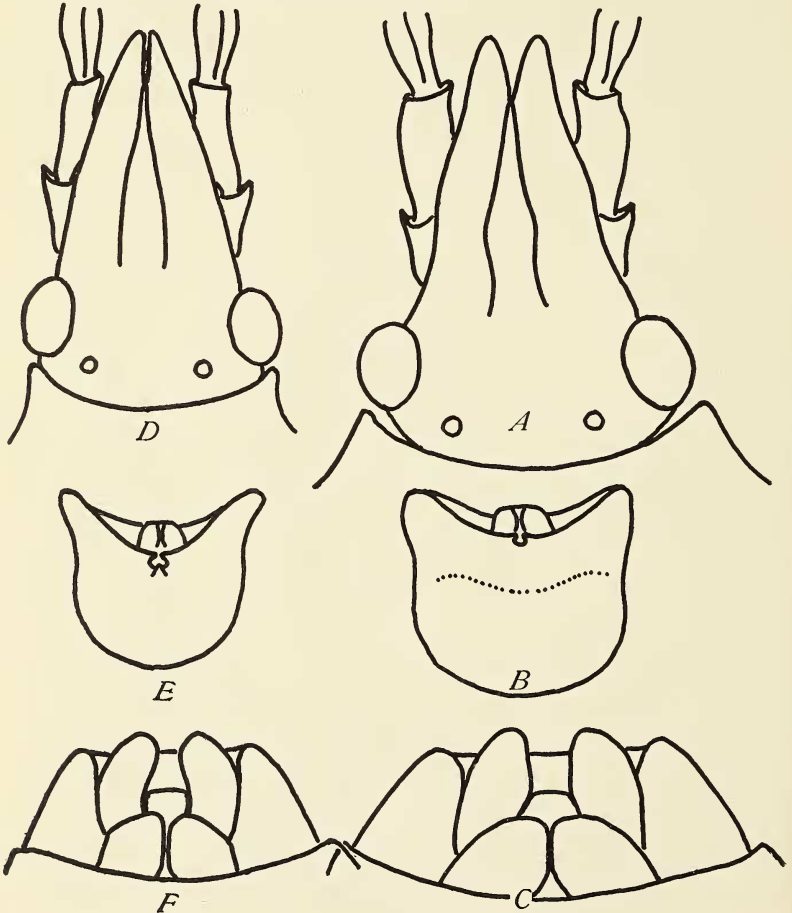
Types deposited in the American Museum of Natural History. Acc. Number 40871 A.M.N.H.

Paratypes: Five males, Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., New Mexico, August 28, 1937. Nine females, six from Las Cruces, Dona Ana

Co., N. M., August 28, 1937; one, Rist Canyon, Fort Collins, Colorado, August 30, 1935; one, Santa Fe Canyon, Santa Fe, N. M., July 20, 1932; one, Kits Peak Rincon, Baboquivari Mts., Ariz., August 1-4, 1916 (Am. Mus. N. H.).

All deposited in author's collection.

In all proportions *M. minor* is less robust than *M. longula*; it is paler, with most fuscous markings obsolete or obsolescent; in color and structure of the head, it is nearer to *M. pallida* Stål, but again considerably smaller than that species; it apparently is a species to be found in the western and southwestern states, feeding on grasses such as *Boutelloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr., from which all the Las Cruces records were taken.



**TWO NEW PSAMMODIUS FROM SOUTHEASTERN
UNITED STATES (COLEOPTERA,
SCARABAEIDAE).***

By O. L. CARTWRIGHT, Clemson, South Carolina.

It is a pleasure to name the first of the following species of *Psammодиус* in honor of Professor Franklin Sherman of Clemson College who has long been interested in the insect fauna of North and South Carolina. The second species is named for its collector, Borys Malkin, who has collected many fine species of Scarabaeidae for the writer.

***Psammодиус shermani*, n. sp.**

Holotype: Length—3.75 mm.; width—1.8 mm. Oblong, slightly widened posteriorly, shining, dark castaneous, pronotum and occiput piceous, femurs and underside somewhat lighter. Head coarsely rather densely verrucose, occiput smooth, polished, clypeus widely moderately emarginate, the triangular tooth each side and margin slightly reflexed, sides evenly rounded to moderately prominent genae. Pronotum two-thirds as long as wide, strongly convex, front angles rounded, hind angles very obtuse, scarcely defined, sides evenly arcuate, margins crenate fimbriate, basal marginal line strong and entire, surface at sides beyond the vague fovea smooth with sparse minute punctures, anterior two-thirds of disc weakly irregularly wrinkled, finely punctate, posterior third with a wide transverse band of very coarse closely placed punctures. Elytra two-fifths longer than wide, striae strongly impressed, crenate punctate, the intervals weakly convex, minutely irregularly punctate. Mesosternum and sides of metasternum anteriorly finely sculptured. Metasternum otherwise minutely sparsely punctate, smooth and shining, median longitudinal groove strong and deep, rather abruptly terminated at each end. Abdominal segments shining, finely crenate in front, each with a single transverse row of coarse setigerous punctures interrupted at middle. Pygidium with fine sculpture basally and a few scattered moderate punctures. Middle and hind femora stout, with a row of close coarse setigerous punctures parallel with hind margin; posterior tibiae stout, subtriangular, transverse ridges not well defined but traces of three

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